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REMARKS

Claims 1-45 were originally presented in the subject application. Claims 1, 16, 31 and 46 were amended in a Response dated April 14, 2005, claims 1, 16 and 31 were amended in a Response dated December 30, 2003, claims 1, 2, 16, 31 and 32 were amended in a Response dated June 23, 2004, and claims 46-60 were added in a Response dated November 5, 2004. Claims 2, 17, 32 and 47 have hereinabove been amended to be independent. Claims 1, 14-16, 29-31, 44-46, 59 and 60 have herein been canceled without prejudice. No claims have herein been added. Therefore, claims 2-13, 17-28, 32-43, and 47-58 remain in this case.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the grounds of rejection and objection.

Objection to Claims

The Office Action objected to claims 2-13, 17-28, 32-43 and 47-58 as being dependent on rejected base claims. However, the Office Action also indicated that the noted claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the relevant base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have so amended the claims objected to, and have canceled without prejudice the rejected claims.

Therefore, Applicants submit the claims objected to are now in proper form for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the dependent claims not specifically addressed herein are allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they directly or ultimately depend, as well as for their additional limitations.

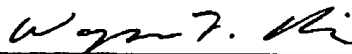
For all the above reasons, Applicants maintain that the claims of the subject application define patentable subject matter and earnestly request entry of this amendment, and allowance of claims 2-13, 17-28, 32-43, and 47-58.

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If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



Wayne F. Reinke
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 36,650

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HESLIN ROTHENBERG FARLEY & MESITI P.C.
5 Columbia Circle
Albany, New York 12203-5160
Telephone: (518) 452-5600
Facsimile: (518) 452-5579